

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on January 19, 2007. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this response, claims 1 and 11 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-19 remain pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Martinez et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,453,090. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to recite a stop member that is coupled to the shaft and positioned proximally of the stent. Martinez et al. do not teach or suggest this limitation. Furthermore, nothing in Martinez et al. teaches or suggests that such a stop would be desirable or have any use whatsoever in the device disclosed therein. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment distinguishes claims 1 and 11 from Martinez et al. Because claims 2-10 and 12-19 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, they are also patentable based on this amendment and because they add significant elements to distinguish them further from the art.

Conclusion

Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,



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